that patience is the only treatment of an undilating os, the result of primary inertia; and the implied advocacy of quinine, ergotinin, and treacle as stimulants in uterine inertia. While by far the greater number of subjects are well and clearly handled, the description of vaginal Cesarean section and uterine suspension are not given in sufficient detail to allow of their comprehension by the ordinary reader. The advocacy of complete anesthesia for forceps delivery is certainly dangerous teaching if followed by the general practitioner in his every-day practice. Those who follow it conscientiously will undoubtedly gain a rather wide experience in post-partum bleeding. It seems rather foolish to advocate the use of the Skutsch pelvimeter to men whose work is of necessity done in private houses and in many instances among the poor. This instrument is undoubtedly of value in trained hands, particularly in hospitals where ample assistance is available, but the ordinary practitioner would certainly obtain naught but misleading evidence from its use. The usual method of estimation by means of the diagonal conjugate as measured by the examining finger is amply sufficient for his needs. In the performance of abdominal Cesarean section it hardly seems needful to compress the broad ligaments during the incision of the uterus or to dilate the cervix afterward, even if there were no dilatation. Certainly the use of the finger as the dilating force would not appeal to many obstetricians.

While, as has been already stated, the book fulfils its purpose quite well, it is nevertheless somewhat of a disappointment, since a different treatment of "practical obstetrics" might be expected from men of the prominence and experience of the authors of the present volume.

W. R. N.

MEDICAL ELECTRICITY AND RÖNTGEN RAYS, WITH CHAPTERS ON PHOTOTHERAPY AND RADIUM. By SINCLAIR TOUSEY, A.M., M.D., Consulting Surgeon to St. Bartholomew's Clinic, New York. Pp. 1116; 750 illustrations. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1910.

LIKE other books written upon electricity, it first deals with general considerations and principles, and then takes up the special currents.

The illustrations are good. The book is well gotten up, and it is indeed a welcome sight to see new plates for motor points and not the old Erb plates, which are used in practically every text-book.

It is difficult to review a large work of this kind, but the first impression is that the book is rather too large. Not that comprehensive treatment is out of place, but there is a lot of repetition of theories by other authors, not only of general principles, but of therapy, and the consequence is that many statements are made of cures of diseases by different forms of electrical application which are not borne out by facts, but which the author quotes in good faith from men who apparently should know. The truth of the matter is, that no one person is qualified to write upon all the different phases of electricity and its treatment. A man who devotes his time to x-ray work cannot very well be expert in the general treatment of nervous diseases by electricity, and the same thing holds true for the neurologist.

The reviewer is a neurologist, and therefore can only review the book from his standpoint. For example, in the treatment of scleroderma the statement is made that "perforating ulcer of the foot has been cured by faradization of the posterior tibial nerve and erythromelalgia and symmetrical gangrene have been successfully treated by the local application of galvanic currents." This is a rather strong statement, and one which the reviewer wishes were true. Again, the statement is made that a "galvanic hydroelectric bath for sciatica cures the majority of the cases." Every neurologist is at times compelled to use electricity in the treatment of neuritis, but unfortunately not always with good results. It is difficult to understand why manufacturers of electrical apparatus always persist in having their electrodes covered by sponges when a metal disk with cotton is so much better and cleaner, and yet in most of the illustrations sponge electrodes are shown.

The chapter on nervous diseases is particularly well done, and the description of the various palsies, disturbance of sensation, etc., is up to date, and is to be commended. One is interested in seeing a description of Laduc's treatment of trigeminal neuralgia by means of cataphoresis, and the author is correct in rather doubting its efficacy.

It is rather difficult to understand the following. In discussing the value of high-frequency currents, the author states that he has had some success in the treatment of infantile paralysis, and then he mentions the following extraordinary case on page 542: "One poor little hand was crippled and about one-half the natural size, and the leg on that side was in about the same condition. A few months' treatment with a vacuum electrode connected directly with one pole of an x-ray coil brought the paralyzed arm and leg up to a size exceeding those of the normal limbs originally, and at the age of two and one-half years the boy weighed forty pounds, and was strong and jolly." He further recommends high-frequency treatment for epilepsy, chorea, and locomotor ataxia, stating that in the latter disease such marked improvement resulted in a case that "the patient's friends have stopped him on the street and asked him what treatment he was receiving." Such statements do not sound well.

Since the introduction of the x-rays in 1895 the advances made in it are remarkable, and the author discusses this part very well. The plates are excellent. On the whole, the book is good, and the author should be commended for his work.

T. H. W.

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OF

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MEDICINE

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A Sulphur Reaction in the Urine in Cancer.—H. Solomon and P. Saxl (*Wiener klin. Woch.*, 1911, xxiv, 449) have made a further study of the oxyproteinic acid of the urine in carcinoma. It is fairly rich in incompletely oxidized sulphur, and Solomon and Saxl have devised a method for oxidizing the sulphur and determining the approximate quantity of sulphate resulting. The method is as follows: 150 c.c. of urine are diluted with 100 c.c. of distilled water. (Albuminous urines must first be boiled, acidified with dilute acetic acid, and filtered.) One then adds 150 c.c. of baryta mixture to remove the sulphates (Salkowski). Baryta mixture consists of two parts of a solution of barium hydroxide saturated at room temperature and one of barium chloride, also saturated at room temperature. (The salts must be chemically pure and kept in stoppered bottles to prevent efflorescence. The saturated solutions are filtered clear.) After adding the baryta mixture, filter and test a small portion of the filtrate with a few drops of baryta to see whether precipitation has been complete. Then, to remove the ethereal sulphates (according to Salkowski), 300 c.c. of the filtrate are taken, to which 30 c.c. of HCl (sp. gr. 1.12) are added, and the whole placed in a 500 c.c. Erlenmeyer flask. The latter is covered with a small funnel, placed on asbestos and boiled one hour over a small flame. (One must guard against change in the HCl concentration from this point onward, hence the use of the funnel in the mouth of the flask.) After boiling, the flask is covered with